

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No. : 10/580,859

Confirmation No. : 8826

First Named

Inventor : Walter VIEGNER, Jr.

PCT Filed : September 22, 2004

TC/A.U. : 3725

Examiner : Stephanie M. JENNINGS

Docket No. : 102475.57672US

Customer No. : 23911

Title : Method for Producing a Coupling on a Pipe and Device for Producing Said Coupling

REPLY

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This Reply is respectfully submitted in response to the Office Action dated October 9, 2009. Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Independent claim 9, independent claim 16, and various dependent claims are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent 4,845,972 to Takeuchi et al. in view of U.S. Patent 6,718,811 to Drillon et al., both newly cited. Reconsideration is requested.

Claim 9 defines a method for shaping the end of a pipe in order to create a socket, while claim 16 defines an apparatus by which such a method may be performed. As claim 9 reflects, a large jump in diameter of the pipe is achieved by way of the specified method. Before the present invention, such diameter enlargements were limited in amount, because pipe end sections were weakened due to reductions in wall thicknesses. Because the sockets are used for pipe connections, weaker enlarged portions cause problems in terms of stability and